

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /066 W
----- 128844

R 070815Z DEC 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1452

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IN

SUBJECT: IRAQI-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: BAGHDAD 820

1. INDIAN AIR CHIEF OF STAFF MARSHALL O. P. MEHRA DEPARTED BAGHDAD DEC 2 AFTER DISAPPOINTING 6 DAY VISIT. HIGHEST GOI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TOP MILITARY OFFICERS, WERE ENGROSSED IN VISITS OF FRENCH PM CHIRAC AND SOVIET CHIEF OF STAFF AND DEPUTY MINDEF GENERAL KULIKOV. AS RESULT MARSHALL MEHRA WAS NOT RECEIVED BY RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN NOR EVEN BY CHIEF OF STAFF SHANSHAL. FURTHERMORE, WHEN HE VISITED IRAQI MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, IRAQIS MADE EXCUSES FOR NOT SHOWING LATEST SOVIET EQUIPMENT SUCH AS MIG-23S. TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, MEHRA WAS SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT ONLY BY DEPUTY COMMANDER OF IRAQI AIR FORCE.

2. ACCORDING TO INDIAN EMBOFF NARAIN, MARSHALL MEHRA PROTESTED STRONGLY TO AMBASSADOR BHANDARI AND TRIED TO CUT VISIT SHORT. HE WAS DISSUADED FROM DOING SO BY AMBASSADOR WHO SAID HE WOULD MAKE GENERAL'S FEELINGS KNOWN
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TO HIGHEST IRAQI LEVELS.

3. AMBASSADOR BHANDARI, WHO ARRIVED NOVEMBER 15, HAS NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS BECAUSE OF ILLNESS OF PRESIDENT AL-BAKR. ACCORDING TO NARAIN, BHANDARI IS INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT BECAUSE ONE OF HIS TASKS IS TO PREPARE VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER GHANDI FOR MARCH OR APRIL. LOWRIE

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NNN

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